

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 INR-07 COME-00 DODE-00

NSC-05 OPIC-03 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01 OMB-01

CIAE-00 AID-05 CEA-01 FRB-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 LAB-04

SIL-01 SAM-01 /082 W

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R 241610Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6353

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BANGUI

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE YAOUNDE 2524

E.O.: 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIN, EALR, EEC, CT, CF, BG, CM

SUBJ: LOME CONVENTION, REVERSE PREFERENCES AND UDEAC

REFS: A) BANGUI 766

B) STATE 168984

1. DURING MY FAREWELL CALLS, I HAVE QUESTIONED GURC MINISTERS RE STATUS OF GURC CONSIDERATION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES ISSUE AS LOME CONVENTION COMES INTO FORCE.

2. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT GURC HAS NOT YET DIRECTLY FACED UP TO PROBLEM. THE MINISTERS, INCL PRIMIN, HAVE POINTED OUT THAT GURC HAD NOT BEEN IN FAVOR OF REVERSE PREFERENCES UNDER YAOUNDE CONVENTION AND HAD, AS WE KNEW, ACTED WITHIN UDEAC TO REDUCE THE DEGREE OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST IMPORTS FROM NON-EEC SOURCES. THEY HAVE LIKEWISE EXPRESSED VIEW THAT GURC WILL DECIDE TO BRING AN END TO THE PRESENT PREFERENCES. WHETHER THIS

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WOULD BE ACCOMPLISHED THROUGH SUBJECTING IMPORTS FROM EEC

COUNTRIES TO THE DUTIES APPLICABLE TO IMPORTS FROM OTHER AREAS OR THROUGH ACCORDING LATTER IMPORTS SAME STATUS AS THOSE FROM EEC HAS NOT YET BEEN DETERMINED.

3. NEW MINISTER OF ECONOMY AND PLAN YOUSSEUFA DAOUDA TOLD ME JULY 22 THAT A WORKING GROUP HAD MET RECENTLY IN YAOUNDE IN ANTICIPATION OF VISIT OF EEC COMMISSIONER CHEYSSON. QUESTIONS OF REVERSE PREFERENCES AND THE NEW EEC EXPORT STABILIZATION PROGRAM WERE DISCUSSED. WHILE TWO ISSUES NOT DIRECTLY LINKED, WORKING GROUP DECIDED TO DEFER FURTHER CONSIDERATION UNTIL AFTER CHEYSSON VISIT AND RETURN FROM BRUSSELS OF SPECIAL FACT-FINDING DELEGATION. CHEYSSON VISIT PROVIDED LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, AND GOVT RESHUFFLE HAS DELAYED FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF ISSUES.

4. DAOUDA OBSERVED THAT CAMEROON'S DECISION WLD OF COURSE BE WITHIN UDEAC FRAMEWORK. WHILE CAMEROON, GABON AND CONGO MIGHT BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER FOREGOING IMPORT DUTIES ON IMPORTATIONS FROM NON-EEC COUNTRIES, HE THOUGHT CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC WOULD PROBABLY OBJECT IN VIEW OF IMPORTANCE OF IMPORT DUTIES TO MEET ITS BUDGETARY NEEDS. HE PERSONALLY FELT THAT THE ULTIMATE DECISION ON REVERSE PREFERENCES WOULD BE NON-DISCRIMINATORY IN APPLICATION BUT DOUBTED THAT DECISION WOULD BE REACHED BEFORE UDEAC SUMMIT MTG IN DECEMBER.

5. APART FROM REVERSE PREFERENCES ISSUE, DAOUDA EXPRESSED SOME DISAPPOINTMENT AT INABILITY TO DATE TO GET CLEAR UNDERSTANDING OF HOW EEC EXPORT STABILIZATION PROGRAM WILL WORK. THIS PROGRAM OF CONSIDERABLE INTEREST TO GURC IN VIEW OF FALLING COFFEE AND COCOA PRICES. CHEYSSON DID NOT PROVIDE HOPED-FOR CLARIFICATION DURING HIS VISIT.

MOORE

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